

Appl. No.: 09/939,206  
Amdt. dated 08/05/2005  
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1- 45 (cancelled)

46. (new) A system for determining a freight charge, comprising:

a rate sheet input module capable of accepting a plurality of rate sheets wherein each rate sheet specifies freight rates and each rate sheet is respectively structured according to one of a plurality of formats, the rate sheet input module further receiving a rate sheet associated with a freight carrier and structured according to one of the plurality of formats;

a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module for storing a plurality of templates, wherein one of the plurality of templates is adapted to interpret the received rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module selecting the one of the plurality of templates to interpret the rate sheet; and

a rule generation module calculating the freight charge associated with the freight carrier using the one of the plurality of templates and the received rate sheet.

47. (new) The system of claim 46 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

48. (new) The system of claim 46 wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

49. (new) The system of claim 46 wherein the system further comprises a user-interface module adapted to receive input from a user specifying information about a rate sheet.

50. (new) The system of claim 47 where the rate sheet analyzer module selects the template to interpret the rate sheet based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

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51. (new) The system of claim 50 where the keyword identifies the freight carrier.
52. (new) The system of claim 50 where the selection of the template to interpret the rate sheet based on the keyword in the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.
53. (new) The system of claim 46 wherein the template storage module is in a remote location with respect to the rate sheet analyzer module.
54. (new) The system of claim 53 further comprising:  
a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to the remote location, the communication module receiving the template adapted to interpret the received rate sheet, the communications module providing the template to the template storage module.
55. (new) The system of claim 50 further comprising a tariffs module for calculating a tariff charge, the freight charge comprising the tariff charge.
56. (new) The system of claim 55 further comprising a compliance module for determining whether a proposed shipment of goods to a destination country complies with import regulations of the destination country.
57. (new) The system of claim 46 further comprising a logging module wherein the freight charge is stored in a file.
58. (new) The system of claim 46 further comprising a packaging module wherein the

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freight charge is determined based in part on a package weight calculation provided by the packaging module.

59. (new) The system of claim 46 further comprising:

an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates and determining an accessorial charge wherein the freight charge comprises the accessorial charge.

60. (new) A method of determining a freight charge comprising:

receiving freight data associated with freight to be shipped;

receiving data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight rates associated with a freight carrier;

retrieving a template from a template storage module to interpret the rate sheet, the template storage module storing a plurality of templates wherein each template is adapted to respectively interpret a particular rate sheet; and

generating the freight charge using the template the interpret the rate sheet in conjunction with the freight data.

61. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

62. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

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63. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising:  
receiving input from a user providing identifying information associated with the rate sheet.
64. (new) The method of claim 63 wherein the rate sheet identifying information associated with the rate sheet identifies the freight carrier associated with the rate sheet.
65. (new) The method of claim 61 wherein retrieving a template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet is based on a keyword in the rate sheet.
66. (new) The method of claim 65 wherein the keyword identifies the freight carrier.
67. (new) The method of claim 65 wherein retrieving a template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.
68. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein the template storage module is in a remote location with respect to the rate sheet analyzer module.
69. (new) The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of:  
transmitting the rate sheet module to the remote location; and  
receiving an identifier associated with the rate sheet used by the rate sheet analyzer module to select the template.
70. (new) The method of claim 60 further comprising:

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receiving a second template for interpreting a second rate sheet; and  
storing the second template in the template storage module.

71. (ncw) The method of claim 60 further comprising:

accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates; and  
generating the freight charge comprising an accessorial charge.

72. (new) A computer-readable medium product having computer program logic embodied therein for determining a freight charge, the computer program logic comprising:

a rate sheet input module capable of accepting a plurality of rate sheets wherein each rate sheet specifies freight rates and each rate sheet is respectively structured according to one of a plurality of formats, the rate sheet input module further receiving a rate sheet associated with a freight carrier and structured according to one of the plurality of formats;

a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module for storing a plurality of templates, wherein one of the plurality of templates is adapted to interpret the received rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module selecting the one of the plurality of templates to interpret the rate sheet; and

a rule generation module calculating the freight charge associated with the freight carrier using the one of the plurality of templates and the received rate sheet.

73. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

74. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the rate sheet specifying zone-based rates.

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75. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the system further comprises a user-interface module adapted to receive input from a user to specify information about the rate sheet.

76. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 73 where the rate sheet analyzer module selects the template to interpret the rate sheet based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

77. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 76 where the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

78. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 73 where the selection of the template to interpret the rate sheet based on the keyword in the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

79. (new) The computer-readable medium product module of claim 72 further comprising:  
a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote system for analysis, the communication module further adapted for receiving an indication from the remote system identifying the template to interpret the rate sheet.

80. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 further comprising:  
a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote system for analysis, the communication module further adapted for receiving the template from the remote system, the communications module providing the template to the template storage module.

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81. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 further comprising:  
a communications module adapted for receiving and storing templates in the template storage module.
82. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 further comprising:  
an accessorial charge module accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates for generating an accessorial charge.
83. (new) The computer-readable medium product of claim 82 wherein the rule generation module calculates the freight charge comprising the accessorial charge.